

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

JOHNNY LOPEZ,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	Civ. A. No. 05-19-GMS
)	
PERRY PHELPS, Warden, et. al.,)	
)	
Respondents.)	

MEMORANDUM

I. INTRODUCTION

In 2006, the court denied petitioner Johnny Lopez's petition for writ of habeas corpus filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. (D.I. 23) Presently pending before the court is Lopez's fourth Rule 60(b)(6) motion asking the court to re-open his habeas case. (D.I. 45)

II. STANDARD OF REVIEW

A motion for reconsideration should be granted to correct manifest errors of law or fact or to present newly discovered evidence. *Harsco Corp. v. Zlotnicki*, 779 F.2d 906, 909 (3d Cir. 1985). Accordingly, a court may grant a motion for reconsideration if the moving party shows one of the following: (1) an intervening change in the controlling law; (2) the availability of new evidence that was not available when the court issued its order; or (3) the need to correct a clear error of law or fact or to prevent a manifest injustice. *Max's Seafood Café v. Quinteros*, 176 F.3d 669, 677 (3d Cir. 1999)(citing *North River Ins. Co. v. CIGNA Reinsurance Co.*, 52 F.3d 1194, 1218 (3d Cir. 1995)). A motion for reconsideration is not appropriate to reargue issues that the court has already considered and decided. *Brambles USA Inc. v. Blocker*, 735 F. Supp. 1239, 1240 (D. Del. 1990).

Additionally, when, as here, a district court is presented with a Rule 60(b) motion after it has denied the petitioner's federal habeas application, the court must first determine if the Rule 60(b) motion constitutes a second or successive application under the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act ("AEDPA"). As articulated by the Third Circuit:

in those instances in which the factual predicate of a petitioner's Rule 60(b) motion attacks the manner in which the earlier habeas judgment was procured and not the underlying conviction, the Rule 60(b) motion may be adjudicated on the merits. However, when the Rule 60(b) motion seeks to collaterally attack the petitioner's underlying conviction, the motion should be treated as a successive habeas petition.

Pridgen v. Shannon, 380 F.3d 721, 727 (3d Cir. 2004). Under AEDPA, a prisoner cannot file a second or successive habeas application without first obtaining approval from the Court of Appeals. Absent such authorization, a district court cannot consider the merits of a subsequent application. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A); *Robinson v. Johnson*, 313 F.3d 128, 139-40 (3d Cir. 2002).

III. DISCUSSION

Lopez's habeas petition denied by the court in 2006 asserted the following two claims: (1) the search of his residence and the seizure of the cocaine violated the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments; and (2) his conviction was illegal because he was not present during jury selection. (D.I. 1) Lopez's instant Rule 60(b) motion appears to assert that he is entitled to federal habeas relief because the Delaware Supreme Court's 2004 written opinion affirming his convictions was unsigned. (D.I. 45 at 2) Lopez's argument does not challenge the manner in which his § 2254 petition was denied, but rather, collaterally attacks his underlying conviction. In addition, Lopez

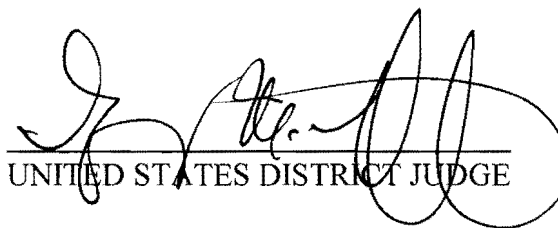
could have, but did not, raise the instant argument in his § 2254 petition.¹ Therefore, the court concludes that the instant Rule 60(b) motion is a second or successive § 2254 petition. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2244(a),(b)(3); 28 U.S.C. § 2254.

The record reveals that Lopez did not obtain permission from the Third Circuit Court of Appeals to file the instant motion/petition. Accordingly, the court will dismiss Lopez's second or successive motion/petition for lack of jurisdiction. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(1); *Robinson*, 313 F.3d at 139 (holding that when a second or successive habeas petition is erroneously filed "in a district court without the permission of the court of appeals, the district court's only option is to dismiss the petition or transfer it to the court of appeals pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1631.").

IV. CONCLUSION

For the aforementioned reasons, the court will dismiss the instant Rule 60(b) motion for lack of jurisdiction because it constitutes a second or successive petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2244. In addition, the court will not issue a certificate of appealability, because Lopez has failed to make a "substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2); *See United States v. Eyer*, 113 F.3d 470 (3d Cir. 1997); 3d Cir. LAR 22.2 (2011). A separate Order will be entered.

 23, 2016
DATE


UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

¹Instead, Lopez filed a lawsuit pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, alleging that his constitutional rights were violated because the Delaware Supreme Court's written opinion affirming his convictions was unsigned. *See Lopez v. Howard*, et al., Civ. A. No. 06-107-GMS. This court dismissed the complaint as frivolous, *Lopez v. Howard*, et al., No. 06-107-GMS, Order (D. Del. Apr. 10, 2006), and the Third Circuit affirmed that decision. *See Lopez v. Howard*, Civ. A. No. 06-2361, Order (3d Cir. Mar. 9, 2007).